AYURVEDA IN MAURITIUS

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Ayurveda in Mauritius

Ayurveda is not only a medical science, but it is also a life science. It is also an integral part of Indian culture and religion. Though Englishmen had taken Indians to Mauritius by enslaving them, the latter continued to preserve their cultural traditions and other things considered important for life. They also kept on utilising the flora available in Mauritius as domestic medicine to cure the diseases and also to remain healthy. Thus, they preserved the Indian Medical Science as cultural trust.

Englishmen did not allow any Brahmin to enter Mauritius. Even then some Brahmins managed to enter Mauritus under false names. Among them some were religious preachers astrologers and Hakeems (doctors). These people had been giving secret guide of Indian cultural activities. They also acquired knowledge of sea minerals and produced medicines but they were not able to cure.

When the International Ayurved Institute made a survey in order to indentify what kind of diseases were breaking out in various countries, and to know whether the people of those countries had their own traditional medical system other than allopathy it was found that excepting China no other country had such medical system that was utilized by its natives.

The Ayurvedic Medical Science now has been recommended for adoption in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The Ex-Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi, had accorded recognition to the Ayurveda Medical Science on par with the Allopathy after having it got passed unanimously in the Parlia-ment.

The international Ayurveda Institute has been making efforts for popularising the Ayurvedic system of medicine. Officers of Institute held a Health Camp in the World Arya Sammelan in 1973.

The then Indian Ambassador Shri K.D. Sharma, had also shown keen interest. A decision was taken in the meeting of Senior Cabinet Ministers to encourage Ayurved therapy in the Mauritius. Accordingly an immediate decision has been taken to establish a Ayurvedic Medical Centre at Port Louis in the building of Ram Krishna Ashram Mission. For this purpose, a Committee was constituted. After that, the Indian Ambassador Shri Khurana also made earnest efforts in this regard.

In 1976, An Indian delegation headed by Dr. Karan Singh, the then Health Minister, visited Mauritius to attend Vishwa Hindi Sammelan. Sir Seewoosagur Ramghoolam, the thus P.M. of Mauritius, was much impressed when Dr. Singh told him that Mauritius should have accorded its recommendations like India to Ayurvedic Therapy as equivalent to Allopathy. Consequently Sir Seewoosagur madea provision to establish Ayurvedic Medical Centre. Other senior Ministers had also shown their keen interest to make efforts for the same.

In his speech, Dr. Karan Singh emphasised that the Ayurved and Sanskrit were part of Hindu Culture. Hence these should also be included in propagating. Hindi Prominent scholars like Kamil Bulke and Bachhehu Prasad Singh had also laid stress in their speeches and demanded the acceptance of these recommendations.

I gave Ayurvedic treatment to the Vice-Prime Minister Sir Rajack Mohammed and his grandson and was successful in curing them. He wanted to give some cash as token of his appreciaction but I refused and demanded that there should be no restriction on Ayurvedic therapy in Mauritius in the shape of gift. Sir Rajack immediately called a press conference and declared that hence forth there would be 'NO BAN' on Ayurvedic treatment in Mauritus. The money gifted to me was sent to Dhanvantri Bhavan, Punjabi Bagh. On my suggestion, I was also assured that the bill for giving recognition to the Ayurvedic system of medicine would be passed in the Parliament.

In 1984, on the occasion of the 150th Annual Celebrations of Indians entry to Mauritus, a delegation headed by His Excellency

President of India Shri Giani Zail Singh and Smt. Ram Dulari Sinha, was sent to Mauritus. I was also invited as a member of the delegation. At that time I inaugurated the Sanatan Dharm Temple Federation and Ayurvedic Medical Centre. An Exhibition was also organised on this occasion.

The then Indian Ambassador Shri Kailash Chandra had made a lot of efforts for this work. The late Shri Durga Prasad Ji Sharma, Chairman of Vaidnath Ayurved Bhavan, and Pt. Shiv Ram Sharma were also officially invited on this occasion. But due to some unavoidable reasons it could not be succeeded at that time. However, the late Durga Prasad Sharma had advised to open an Ayurvedic Medical Centre in Mauritius. Other supporters and experts in the field, who had assured their contribution for the same were Dr. Appad, Dr. Souvran, Dr. Sushagra ; among officials of Temple federation were Shri Damodar Tulsi and Shri Ramlakhan Parmanand.

But due to factionalism, the newly elected officials did not take interest in this regard. Therefore, the then Indian Ambassador in Mauritius Shri Prem Singh was contacted. He explained the entire situation in his letter which also contained some of his suggestions. One of them was to open such centre in the rural area so that villagers could be benefitted. This area is covered by Shri Swami Krishan and Sewa Ashram Kalabas run by Human Service Trust. Shri Singh called separate meetings of the officials of Human Trust and Sanatan Dharam Temple Federation and it was decided to immediately open a centre in the Swami Krishnanand Ashram. After that Swami Krishnanand Ji Maharaj and Dhandev Bahadur came to India and they decided to open Centre on Mrs. Indira Gandhi's birthday. Later, the Prime Minister Shri Jagnnath inaugurated the centre and 2 expert vaids and medicines and some literature on Ayurvedic therapy were sent.

An Ayurvedic Botanical Garden after the name of late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam was established and His Excellency Veera Swami, Governor General, inaugurated it.

As Ayurved gained popularity a branch of it was opened in Port Lour's. A delegation headed by Kaviraj Vedvrat Sharma visited Mauritius to survey the flora growing in Mauritius.

Sh. V.P. Narsimha Rao had accorded his permission to send two experts for inspection of the Centre. India has assured its cooperation to extend Ayurvedic Medical system in Mauritius.

Eleven Mauritian students have been permitted to receive education in India free of cost. Arrangements have also been made in Indian Ayurvedic colleges for reservation of seats for Mauritian nationals. Free Ayurvedic medicines were sent to Mauritius Centre by Vaidnath Bhavan. Vaidnath Bhavan Publications have also been supplied. Air India charged no fare for the medicines. Prime Minister of Mauritius Shri Jagnauth and Finance Minister Shri S. Lutchmeenaraidoo are also taking personal interest to have the resolution passed in the Parliament. Kaviraj Vedvrat Sharma has been invited by Mauritius Government.

The 1988-89 Budget have a provision of Rs. 2 lakh for Ayurved Medicines. Free arrangements for Mauritius students, who have come to India to learn Sanskrit, Astrology and rituals, have been made in Jairam Ashram, Rishikesh and Jairam Vidyapeeth Kurukshetra, by Brahamchari Sh. Devendra Swaroop Kumar Ji. Some students are also studying in Sampuranand University and Lal Bahadur Shastri Vidyapeeth, so that they could take admission in Ayurvedic courses in future.

The Ayurvedic and other traditional medicine Act has been passed in the Parliament in November 1989 and I am extremely happy and grateful to the Government of Mauritius for conducting the First International Ayurvedic Conference in Mauritius held at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka, from 17th to 19th March, 1990.

I am also thankful to the delegates who came from India and other countries and who have presented their expert views for the propagation and development of Ayurved.

—Vaidraj Pandit
Jagdish Prasad Sharma

Assistance to Ayurveda in Mauritius

—A Report—

When Shri Jugdish Goburdhun, Mauritian Minister of Health visited New Delhi, he sought expert guidance for preparing the appropriate legal structure for the practice of Ayurvedic Medicine in Mauritius.

On his request, I was invited to give advice and suggestions on the successful legislation of the Ayurvedic Bill. Copies of the Ayurvedic Bill, India, and other relevant documents were despatched for the formulation and preparation of a draft bill for Mauritius. On my arrival here, I had several meetings with the Minister of Health and the Health Director. I proposed to the Government of Mauritius that a legal adviser from the Government of India on Ayurvedic matters should be consulted for the final drafting of the Bill.

The Government of India delegated Dr. S.K. Mishra from the Indian Council for the research in Ayurveda and Siddha in the drafting of the Ayurvedic Bill, Mauritius.

When the Honourable Shri Vishnu Lutchmeenaraidoo, Minister of Finance, visited India on 2nd Februry, 1989 to give shape to the final draft of the Ayurvedic Bill, I was held up with the preparation of the first Ayurveda International Conference to be held in Nepal. At thc same time, the programme of my visit to Canada was also being finalised. Thus, I could not visit Mauritius at that time but I promised him that when the Bill would be passed in Parliament, I would certainly honour his invitation.

However, the first Conference of the Ayurvedic Institute scheduled to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, could not be held due to border problems between India and Nepal. The Conference was eventually postponed.

When I came to Mauritius for the final drafting of the Ayurvedic Bill, and mentioned to the Health Minister. Shri Jagdish

Goburdhun and Shri Dhundeo Bahadur about the postponement of the Nepal Conference, they readily proposed Mauritius as an alternate venue. I agreed to the programme, and when I returned to Delhi I presented the proposal to the Executive Committee. I also delegated the following members of the Ayurvedic International Institute to Mauritius :—

(1) Shri Rajendra Awasthy, General Secretary, Ayurvedic International Institute ;

(2) Shri Vedvrat Sharma, Secretary A.I.I. ;

(3) Shri Shankar Swarup, P.R.O., A.I.I. ;

(4) Shri S.K. Sharma, Chairman Ayurveda and Unani Board, Delhi ;

(5) Shri Chakrapani Sharma.

They had several working sessions at the Government level as well as with non Government organisations.

A decision was taken to hold the Conference in November 1989 in Mauritius. However, at that time, Shri Baleshwar Agarwal, convener of this Conference was taken up with his European tour and the Ayurvedic Bill could not be passed due to some unforeseen circumstances.

Mr. Dhundeo Bahadur, then suggested that it would be more appropriate to hold the Ayurvedic Conference after the legislation of the Bill in Parliament. The Bill became Act in November 1989 and the dates 17-19 March 1990 were retained for the holding of the First International Ayurvedic Conference in Mauritius.

The conveners for this conference Shri Dhundeo Bahadur and Shri Baleshwar Agarwal, have made immense efforts in making the Ayurvedic Act of Mauritius a reality.

Some unfortunate malignarts campaigns and rumours were spread to denigrate our work and it was even voiced that the Conference would be held in May, 1990. But the tireless and sincere efforts of Shri Dhundeo Bahadur dissipated all misunderstandings and matters were clarified. And he worked firmly for the holding of the Conference as initially scheduled.

Anyway, it is far from any intention to dwell upon these mischievous campaigns. After all when one is taken up with a higher and nobler goal, where is there time to dwell on petty and insignificant matters? I dismissed the whole issue from my mind.

The idea that I mooted way back on September 1st, 1973 during the Vishwa Arya Maha Sammelan of setting up an Ayurvedic Centre of Medicine in Mauritius has at long last become a reality with the support of one and all.

I do not have enough words to express my gratitude to the to the then Governor General Sir A. Rahman Osman, the father of the Nation, the then Prime Minister late Sir Seewoosagur, and late Sir Abdool Razack Mohammed, the then Minister of Land and Housing for their sympathetic support.

And last but not least, I am indebted to the entire population of Mauritius.

I am indeed immensely happy at the successful implantation of Ayurvedic medicine in Mauritius.

To enable the work to go on smoothly in the Ayurvedic field in Mauritius in its initial stages, and the successful implementation of the Ayurvedic Act, I have set up an Advisory Committee in India to give guidance and support whenever needed.

This Advisory Committee consists of the following members.

(1) Shri Mehta, Vice Chancellor, Ayurveda University, Jamnagar, Gujarat;

(2) Shri S.K. Mishra, Adviser to the Government of India in Ayurveda;

(3) Shri Dr. Vivekananda Pandey, Director Ayurveda Research Institute, Government of India.

(4) Acharya Swami Ram Prakash, former Director, Rashtriya Ayurved Sansthan, Jaipur;

(5) Kaviraj Ashutosh Majumdar former Chairman, Ayurvedic Council;

(6) Shri Acharya Raj Kumar Jain, Registrar Kendriya Chikitsa Parishad ;

(7) Shri S.K. Sharma, President Ayurveda and Unani Board, Delhi ;

(8) Kaviraj Vedvrat Sharma ;

(9) Hakim Khalillijama, Chairman Kendriya Bharatiya Chikitsa Parishad.

The services of the Advisory Committee are at the disposal of the Government of Mauritius.

I have also suggested to the Government of Mauritius to make available to Mauritian students scholarships to prepare trained man power in Ayurvedic medicine. I understand that the Government of India has granted 2 scholarships to the Government of Mouritius in this context as from 1991.

My request to have the services of an Ayurvedic Director, Medical Registrar and a Drug officer available on loan from the Government of India for the successful implementation of the Ayurvedic Act has been accepted by the Government.

I am also happy that my suggestion to the effect that the Ayurvedic experts from the Ayurvedic University, Jamnagar, Gujarat, be made available to help Mauritian doctors in the dissemination of Ayurvedic system of medicine, has been accepted. In the same way, arrangements have been made so that facilities are extended to Mauritian students studying Ayurvedic medicine through English medium at Jamnagar University.

—Pandit Vaidraj Jagdish Prasad Sharma

Historic International Ayurvedic Conference in Mauritius

March 17-20, 1990

A historical International Ayurvedic Conference was organised in Mauritius from March 17 to 20, 1990, by the International Ayurved Institute, Delhi, on the invitation of various social, religious and cultural organisations of Mauritius. All the arrangements for the Conference were made by the Human Service Trust. This trust is also running an Ayurvedic Dispensary in the Swami Krishnanand Sewashram, which was founded on the birthday on the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, 19.11.85 and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Aneerood Jagnauth. A botanical garden after the name of the late Dr. Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, the first Prime Minister of Mauritius, and the founder of modern Mauritius, has also been set up, for which 30 Bigha land was donated by the state government.

Initially the Conference was proposed to be held in Kathmandu (Nepal) in May 1989, but because of political upheaval and disturbed condition in the country, it had to be postponed. Later on in November 1989, due to passing of bill giving recognition to Ayurved by the Mautritian Parliament, it was but appropriate to hold the first world Ayurved Conference in Mauritius. Those participating in the Conference included the Vice Chancellor of the Gujarat University, Jamanagar, Shri V.R. Mehta ; the Director, Central Ayurved Research Council, Dr. Vivekanand Pandey, and other persons engaged in research ; the Secretary, Indian Medical Research Council, Acharya Raj Kumar Jain, and former Honorary Physician to the President and former President of the Indian Medical Central Council, Kaviraj Asutosh Mazumdar.

An exhibition on Ayurved was also set up at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka, which was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor General of Mauritius, Sir Shri Veeraswamy Ringadoo.

The prominent companies engaged in the production of Ayurvedic medicines like Jhandu, Vaidyanath and Dabur, also exhibited their products. These attracted attention of delegates from Mauritius and other countries. A large number of persons visited the exhibition for three days.

These forming part of the Indian delegation to the Conference talked on a number of subjects like "Health for all by 2000 and the role of Ayurved", "Ayurved a complete medical science", and on modern diseases like cancer, AIDS, in the seminars organised on this occasion.

Other prominent persons who took part in the seminars extending over the three day period, were Dr. Vivekanand Pandey, Dir. Ayu. Research Institute, Dr. Shivkumar Mishra Shri Hakim Khaleefathuliah, President, Central Council of Indian Medicines, Vaid Ram Prakash Swami, ex-Director of the National Ayurvedic Institute, Vaid Ramprakash Swami, Kaviraj Nanak Chand Sharma, Chairman of the Ayurvedic and Unani Systems of Medicines, Delhi, Dr. H.K. Sharma, Chairman, Board of Ayurvedic and Unani Medicines, Bangalore, Dr. Narayan Rao, Vaid Shri Krishna Multani, Kaviraj Dharmavir, Chief Medical Director of Mauritius, Dr. Purna, and Deputy Medical Director, Dr. Dev Suvagra, a disciple of Vaidraj Pandit Jagdish Prasad Sharma according to Guru-Shishya tradition.

The famous physician, Vaid Suresh Chaturvedi, discussed in detail the use of condiments like cumin seed, chillies, ginger and asphoedita in food. Dr. B.D. Gupta, informed the audience about the survey of various types plants and other vegetation in Mauritius made by him. Other scholars like, Vaid Vamdev Tripathi, Kaviraj Shri Krishna Multani, Dr. Sukumar Bhattacharji, Dr. Renu Batra also expressed their views on a variety of subjects. Representatives of the USSR, Holland, Norway, South Africa, Nepal, etc. also expressed their views on a number of subjects.

The Prime Minister of Mauritius, Sir Aneerood Jagnauth, Dy. Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Mauritius, Shri Lutchmee-Naraidoo, the Health Minister, Shri Govardhanji, and Indian High

Commissioner, H.E. Shri Shiv Kumar Rana, arranged dinners for the participants of the Conference.

This occasion was also utilised to emphasise that the Ayurvedic system of medicine was the source of all other medical systems because being without any side-effects and cheap. It was announced that by passing the bill for recognising the Ayurvedic syetem of medicine in the country, a door had also been opened for development of the Ayurved in other parts of the world as well. Announcement was also made for providing scholarships to students of Mauritius for study in India, appointment of Ayurvedic physicians in Primary Health Centres in Mauritius, providing indoor beds for patients, laboratory for manufacture of meddicines and setting up of a botanical garden.

In a message, the Prime Minister of India, Shri V.P. Singh, emphasised the special features of Ayurved, its antiquity, and harmless system of treatment. He also thanked the Government of Mauritius for holding the Conference.

Jyotish Dwarka Pithadhish Jagadguru Shankaracharya, Shri Swarupanand Saraswati and Swami Krishnanand, founder of the Sewashram, blessed the Conference with their messages. They also congratulated and provided inspiration to them.

The entertainment provided by the poets visiting Mauritius under the leadership of Shri Rajendra Awasthy, General Secretary, International Ayurvedic Institute in various forms, such as, poetry recitations, poetry-evenings various institutes will be long remembered. On this occasion, the national poet of Mauritius, Shri Madhukar, and other poets also participated. The poetry evenings were compared by the famous poet of Mauritius, Shri Rajendra Arun. Prominent organisations of Mauritius—Arya Samaj, Sanatan Dharma Temple Federation, Mandir Parishad, Sanatan Dharma Brahman Sabha and Revised Prachar Sabha—also welcomed the delegates and arranged dinners for them. In the dinner given by the Lt. Major-General, presents and citation were given to Vaidraj Pt. Jagdish Prasad Sharma.

Dr. Rajpal Singh, who trained the police force of Mauritius and gave demonstrations for three days, was also honoured with presents and citation. On this occasion, all other delegates were also given citations by the Health Minister. It may be mentioned that Mauritius has no army ; all the work relating to the country's defence is done by the police. Shri Dayal is the heighest officer of this force.

Shri Dhandev Bahadur, convener of the Conference and Adviser to the Prime Minister, Shri Vijay Madhu, Adviser to the Finance Minister, and Shri Suryadev Ji, Chief of the Krishnanand Ashram, worked untiringly to make the Conference a success. The Health Secretary himself directed the working of the Conference. The Health Minister was also present on all occasion including seminars, lunches and dinners, and congregation of poets (Kavi-Sammelans).

Shri Baleshwar Agarwal, Convener, and Kaviraj Ved Vrat Sharma, Secretary, International Ayurvedic Institute, need to be commended for making excellent arrangements for the transport of delegates from Delhi to Mauritius. The delegates were initially scheduled to leave on 15 March by Air Mauritius so as reach Mauritius on the 16th with corresponding arrangements by Air India. But as the Air Mauritius expressed its inability to carry 100 delegates on the 15th, arrangements were made to fly the delegated on the 14th, with which the Air India did not agree. As a consequence, the programme was changed and all the delegates left Delhi on the 12th March by the Paschim Express reaching Bombay the next day. In Bombay, arrangements for the stay of delegates at the Mahavir Medical Research Centre, Ahimsa, Ahimsa Marg, Khar West, were worthy of appreciation. This organisation arranges treatment by all systems of medicines. They also have religious, social and cultural centres. Its founder, Shri Babu Shadi Lal Ji Jain, former, Sheriff, was the yajman, when Vaidraj pledged to get recognition to Ayurved in Mauritius in 1973. On the 14th March, the delegation left Bombay at 5 am reaching Mauritius at 11 am the same day. They were received at the airport by officials of the Health Ministry and officials of the Krishnanand Sewashram

under the leadership of the Health Minister. Correspondents of the television, radio and press were also present on the occasion.

In the course of an interview, Vaidraj Pandit Jagdish Prasad Sharma said that he had announced on the 19th November, 1985 on the occasion of the inauguration of the Ayurvedic Centre that Ayurvedic physicians and Ayurvedic medicines would be provided by him for a period of three years. I was asked at that time as to what would happen after that period ? What is happening on the completion of that period is now obvious to all.

The Conference was inaugurated with the recitation of Vaidas and worshipping of the Dhanwantri. H.E. Sir Weeraswami Ringadoo, Governar-General was the main *yajman* and the *puja* was conducted by Pandit Jagdish Prasad Sharma.

At the time of the inauguration of the Conference, the General Secretary, Shri Rajendra Awasthi, gave a resume of the activities of the Ayurvedic Institute. After touring the whole world, Mauritius also known as little Bharat, was selected as the centre for this work. In Canada too they are contemplating to recognise Ayurved as a system of medicine. Same is the case with Indonesia and Thailand. Talks are also going on for establishing Ayurvedic Centres in Indonesia, Thailand Burma and Bangladesh. A Plan for training in Ayurved is also being drawn up in the USSR. The President of the Institute is scheduled to visit the USSR in May, 1990.

Delegates from ten countries attended the Conference. Representatives of Indian organisations attending the Conference were All India Ayurved Congress, All India National Graduate Association, Rashtriya Mandal, Vidyut Parishad, representatives of companies producing Ayurvedic medicines and Ayurved specialists. On this occasion, a souvenir was also released, which was edited by Kaviraj Ved Vrat Sharma, Acharya Raj Kumar Jain and Dr. N.C. Shah.

A sub-committee consisting of Shri Vaid Shankar Swarup, Kaviraj Chakrapani Sharma, Acharya Brijlal Bhardwaj, Kaviraj Arvind Kumar, Professor Ayurved Pharmacist College, Shri Sanjay

Kumar Sharma, made all arrangements for the travel of delegates upto Bombay.

Vaidraj Pandit Jagdish Prasad Sharma was specially honoured by the Mauritian Government and various organisations of Mauritius. In his brief address, Pandit Jagdish Prasad Sharma expressed his gratitude to various organisations, television, radio and mass media and said that the assistance received in his efforts for 17 long years would be long remembered. Shri Sharma also said that unsolicited cooperation was also extended by his disciples and other well wishers in fulfilling his wish. Special thanks were given to Vaidraj Ayurved Bhawan. Vaidraj ji also said that there were some consitutional problems in setting up Ayurvedic centres in African countries. Once these are solved, it would become possible to set up centres in African countries.

On receiving an assurance that a sum of Rs. 10 laks would be given (and a cheque for Rs. one lakh was given as advance payment) by the persons of Indian origin in South Africa, Vaidraj said that unless relations between India and South Africa get normalised, the Ayurvedic Institute would not be in a position to set up any centre in South Africa. However, by passing the Act in Mauritius, it was hoped that it might be possible to set up a centre there. On receiving the formal invitation, the next Ayurvedic Congress would be convened in Nepal or Canada.

Note : The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. J.P. Khanna, and Rama Shankar Tripathi presented a research paper on diseases and vegetation grown in Mauritius. Dr. Apad and Dr. Soni, Ayurvedic physicians in Mauritius gave an account of diseases prevalent in rural areas of Mauritius.

Lecture

By Vaidraj Pt. Jagdish Prasad Sharma on the occasion of the First International Ayurvedic Conference, held from March 17 to 19, 1990 at the Mahatama Gandhi Institute, Post Louis, Mauritius.

(1) Your Excellency, Honourable, Sir Veerasamy Ringadoo, Governor General ;

(2) Honourable Prime Minister, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth ;

(3) Honourable Shribatcam Boolell, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Honourable Attorney-General ;

(4) Honourable Shri Lutchmeenaraidoo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance ;

(5) Honourable Dr. Ghurbhurrun, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic planning and Development ;

(6) Honourable Shri Jugdish Goburdhun, Minister of Health ;

(7) Honourable members of Legislative Assembly ;

(8) Your Excellency, the Indian High Commissioner, Shri Shivraj Kumar Rana ;

(9) Honourable representatives of diplomatic mission in Mauritius ;

(10) Distinguished delegates and

(11) Distinguished guests and the people of Mauritius,

During the world Arya Maha Sammelan, held in Mauritius, on the 1st September, 1973, the then Governor General Sir A. Rahman Osman and the then Prime Minister, late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Father of the Nation gave me the assurance that they would give their support and encouragement to the setting up and establishment of Ayurvedic system of medicine in Mauritius.

At that time, I was also assured by the late Sir Abdool Razack Mohammed, Minister of Land and Housing, who had particular

interest in the venture, that he would get the Ayurvedic Act passed in the Parliament. Today this dream has become a reality. And I do not have enough words to thank the Government of Mauritius and in particular the Honourable Prime Minister, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, for having supported the project of Ayurvedic Medicine in Mauritius.

On the 19th November, 1985, birthday of late Smt Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, when Sir Aneerood Jugnauth inaugurated the launching of the Ayurvedic Centre in Mauritius, he told me that I had his full support in the promotion and propogation of Ayurvedic medicine in Mauritius. Today Ayurvedic system of medicine has become fully established with passing of the Ayurvedic bill in the Parliament. Mauritius has now become a centre for the promotion of Ayurvedic medicine.

I have also to thank the Indian High Commission in Mauritius and in particular, the Former High Commissioner Shri Prem Singh, in making Ayurvedic venture fully operational in Mauritius.

The last but not the least, my thanks are to the entire people of Mauritius for their support and goodwill.

Even if one were to write a whole book on the tireless efforts in achieving the objective it would not be sufficient to uphold the noble and dedicated task undertaken by the Government and the people of Mauritius.

In particular, I would like to make a special mention for the initiative taken by Shri Lutchmeenaraidoo, Shri Satcam Boolell, Shri Jagdish Goburdhun and Human Service Trust of Shri Swami Krishnanandji Maharaj.

Today, developed as well as developing countries are facing some serious health problems that have emerged recently with development. Distinguished Ayurvedic specialists and scholars will highlight these problems during this International Ayurvedic Conference held here in Mauritius. They will confer and try to find solutions to these modern health problems so that by the year 2000, they may be eradicated completely.

Major health problems arising today in the world cannot be counteracted by law only.

Overpopulation, the increasing use of alcoholic products and drugs, deteriorating environment and population are all responsible for deadly diseases, such as cancer. These are not entirely curable and scientists of the medical world are still looking for solutions and remedies.

Other diseases such as arthritis, Asthma troubles, diabetes, blood pressure etc. for which the current prevailing medical system has not been able to provide complete solution, can hopefully look foreward to the Ayurvedic system of medicine, which is gaining significant ground day by day in the medical world. However it is true that allopathy has played a major contribution in successful surgery.

Experiences gained from extensive travelling, I can safely say that, although Mauritius belongs to the developing nations, yet with the exception of developed countries, it has advanced much ahead of many developing countries in the domain of health and rural development.

The research carried out in Mauritius shows that the country has a rich potential especially so far as madical plant s are concerned. This can lead to a grand revolution in medical world. These scholars are confident of the effective and productive use of these medicinal plants.

No doubt, some difficulties are bound to crop up initially. But with the passing of the Ayurvedic Act in Parliament, all these Leething troubles can be easily overcome.

India can be of great help here. Just like it is helping Mauritius in several other fields on a government level, it can bring immense help and support on a bilateral basis in the promotion of Ayurvedic medicine particularly in the intial stages.

The International Institute of Ayurvedic sciences, Delhi, has set up a full-fledged committee of Ayurvedic experts. This committee can be helpful in tendering advice and valuable suggestions in making the Ayurvedic Act a practical and positive venture.

This help and guidance can be obtained whenever a request is made in that direction and to that effect.

Mauritius cannot be considered any more only as part of the developing world now. With the set up of the Ayurvedic Centre here and the passing of the Ayurvedic Act it is in the process of opening a new door to the medical world in the promotion and propagation of Ayurvedic system of medicine.

May I draw your attention to another aspect. Some allopathic drugs have appeared on the world market which have terrible and harmful side-effects. Many allopathic medical experts are now turning more and more towards Ayurveda for a solution to these problems. I believe that, by having a deeper knowledge of the Ayurvedic system and studying it scientifically, their efforts will be more rewarding. They will achieve much more rapid and beneficial impact from the Ayurvedic science of medicine.

The International Institute of Ayurvedic sciences, Delhi has set up a high powered committee to provide expert guidance and for conducting research. We have also initiated a Refresher Course by correspondence.

It would be worthwhile if doctors in Mauritius could utilise its services.

The Government of Mauritius can give incentives in providing scholarships to students for further studies such as medicine, engineering etc. in a joint Indo-Maurtian co-operatiton.

In due course, Mauritius may have its own independent and fully trained Ayurvedic doctors to man its health services.

First International Ayurvedic Conference
Mahatma Gandhi Institute—Moka
Mauritius

17 to 19 March, 1990

RESOLUTIONS

The first Centre of Ayurved was established in Calebasses under the auspicious of Human Service Trust. It is proposed that the road leading to that place be named as 'Dhanwantari Road'. The concerned authorities in Mauritius are requested to accept this resolution.

2. Mauritius is rich in flora and fauna and vast resources of such plants which are vital for the growth of Ayurvedic medicines. It is proposed that the Government of Mauritius take a lead and establish a national Herbarium and museum be established with a reference section.

3. Research is an integral part of development and growth of Ayurveda. It is suggested that an International Research Centre be established with fully equipped laboratory and other facilities.

4. We appreciate the limited scope of getting sufficient literature on Ayurved in Mauritius. It is proposed that the concerned Authorities and Organisation in Mauritius help in building a good Ayurvedic Library and also contribute to literature concerning the subject from all parts of the world. This will help scholars and researcher work and will also attract the scholars from the other parts of the world.

5. It is hoped that the Government of Mauritius will provide health awareness and will have programmes, lectures, seminars, symposiums and contact programme to the backward areas. The government will do its best to have the treatments to the diseases commonly prevailing in this island. International Institute of Ayurvedic Sciences assures its full support to the Government for this cause.

Declaration

First International Ayurvedic Conference
Mahatma Gandhi Institute—Moka

17—19 March, 1990

The First International Ayurvedic Conference was broadly based on the role of Ayurveda and allied indigenous systems of medicine in the context of World Health Organisation (WHO) declaration of 'HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000'. The Conference also stressed on the positive role that these systems can play in the current socio-cultural environment.

Over 100 delegates from India. Soviet Union, Netherlands, Norway, Mauritius and other neighbouring countries participated. The conference was divided into several sessions and workshops where keynote addresses and scientific papers were presented.

2. Now it has been well established fact that present day health care system which has been dominated by cosmopolitan medicine has limitations in relation to many diseases due to the general decline in environment and the failure to address preventive and promotive aspects of health. On the other hand the indigeneous systems are more identifiable with the respective culture to which they belong and as they are mainly derived from natural resources the chances of safety are much more higher.

3. Ayurveda and other indigeneous systems of medicine are well recognised in respective countries but this conference strongly feels that these systems deserve due official recognition in other parts of the world. In this connection this conference proudly recognises the initiative taken by the Government of Mauritius in according legal status to the practice of Ayurveda and other indegeneous systems of medicine in Mauritius.

This conference feels that the slogan of 'HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000' cannot be realised unless thes systems are fully integrated in respective national health machinery.

4. This conference also recognises the limitations of these systems and suggests that all efforts should be made to bring the fundamental conceptual knowledge of Ayurveda and other systems in modern scientific ways so that they can become part of the official health machinery. At present these systems have limitations in terms of resources and equipment which have resulted into restricted development. It is necessary that these barriers be removed by providing not only increased financial assistance but also the modern technical and operational knowhow.

5. This Conference feels that the ancient classical text available in Sanskrit and other languages be studied in a modern perspective as it is felt that indepth and critical analysis of this knowledge will definitly help to generate new ideas and strategies in the field of bio-medicine.

6. The conference feels that Mauritius is uniquely placed geographically, culturally and socio-economically to develop and propagate Ayurvedic and other Indegeneous Medicines throughout the World. As such the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius should provide the necessary assistance and framework for the development of the same through both public and private sectors as well as through voluntary organisations.

7. World Health Organisation has given official recognition to the Indigeneous systems of Medicine but it is felt that more financial and technical resources be made available to these systems for their proper growth.

8. Primary Health Care is a priority area and these systems of medicine through their preventive and promotive aspects can play a very important role. This Conference suggest that these systems should be involved in all Primary Health Programmes.

9. The Conference places on record its appreciation for the contribution of the Ministery of Health, Government of Mauritius,

in particular the Minister of Health, Honourable Jagdish Goburdhun for helping to make the Conference a success.

CONFERENCE REPORT

During the three day deliberations of this First International Ayurvedic Conference following subjects were discussed in various scientific sessions and workshop discussions :—

(1) Ayurveda as a complete Medical System.
(2) Drug addiction and role of Ayurveda
(3) Common diseases in Mauritius.
(4) Health for All by the Year 2000 and the role of Ayurveda.

AYURVEDA AS A COMPLETE MEDICAL SYSTEM

While discussing this topic the speaker elaborately described the fundamental principals, and the strength of Ayurvedic System and its relevance in modern times.

It was also emphasized that Ayurveda not only cures diseases but also help in maintenance and promotion of positive health. On the basis of the vast clinical experience in the field of Ayurvedic Medicine, the senior Ayurvedic Physicians showed effectively, how Ayurveda can be a dependable medical system to tackle the health care problems of the present era.

DRUG ADDICTION AND ROLE OF AYURVEDA

Drug addiction has become an issue of global concern and how the Ayurvedic System can be effective in de-addiction programmes was discussed by the speaker.

A comparative study regarding the fundamental principles of de-addiction between the Ayurvedic and modern system of medicine was presented in a very illustrative manner. The selected herbal medicines and the panchkarma therapy such as shirobasti, shirodhara, Abhyanga, Awagahan were shown to be effective in the management of drug addicts. The emphasis was also given on the holistic approach to avoid the relapses in cases of drug addiction.

COMMON DISEASES IN MAURITIUS

On the basis of his experience over last few years, the senior Ayurvedic Physician from Mauritius discussed about the common diseases prevalent in Mauritius.

Several factors, such as life style, climate, dietary habits have been responsible for the most common diseases such as diabetes, bronchial asthma, heart diseases and skin diseases in Mauritius.

It was expressed that these diseases can be effectively controlled by Ayurvedic treatment provided people follow the dietary restrictions and modify their life style as mentioned in Ayurveda.

HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000 AND THE ROLE OF AYURVEDA

The concept of this WHO declaration and the strategies adopted by the various countries to achieve this goal and the role of Ayurveda was discussed.

In the scientific and systematic presentation the speaker showed the glimpses and future prospects of Ayurveda in 20th century. He also discuss the basic concepts, theory, principal and strength of Ayurvedic system with important guidelines to implement this system effectively for the benefit of mankind.

He elaborately discussed about the various research strategies adopted by C.C.R.A.S. in the field of drug research and clinical research by using modern research parameters.

He also made a reference to some important medicinal plants of India and their properties.

During the question/answer session it was expressed by the Mauritian scholars that there should be more meaningful collaboration between India and Mauritius for the identification and study of medicinal plants in Mauritius.

The scientific sessions and workshops provided an ideal opportunity to all the research scholars to exchange their views on Ayurvedic system of medicine and its importance in both preventive and curative aspects of the health care.

It also enabled the foreign delegates to have a much closer of this ancient medical system.

International Ayurvedic Conference
Mahatma Gandhi Institute—Moka
Mauritius

17—19 March, 1990

LIST OF OVERSEAS PARTICIPANTS

1. Vaidraj Pt. Jagdish Prasad Sharma	(75) Founder President of International Institute of Ayurvedic Sciences, Eminent Ayurvedic Physician and scholar of Hindu Scriptures Founder of Ayurvedic Centre in Mauritius
2. Kaviraj Ved Vrat Sharma	(52) Secretary I.I.A.S., Hon. Physician to the President of India, Ayurveda-charya from Banwari Lal Ayurvedic College, BIMS from Tibbia College, Practising Ayurvedic Physician
3. Shri Baleshwar Agrawal	(69) Vice President, I.I.A.S., Secretary General A.R.S.P., Senior Journalist
4. Shri Rajendra Awasthy	(60) General Secretary, I.I.A.S., Editor, Kadambini-top Hindi Monthly Magazine, General Secretary Authors Guild of India
5. Shri Shankar Swarup Sharma	(44) Treasurer, International Institute of Ayurvedic Sciences, Ayurved Ratna, Allahabad, Officer in Reserve Bank of India

6. Dr. N.C.C. Shah	(53) Head of the Department of Kaya Chakitsa (A & U) Delhi University
7. Shri S.K. Sharma	(47) Chairman Board of A & U System of medicines
8. Smt. Kamlesh Sharma	(42) Ayurvedic Physician
9. Shri Rahul Bhardwaj	(17) Student
10. Shri S.K. Mishra	(50) Adviser-Ayurved, Ministry of Health Government of India
11. Shri V.M. Pande	(50) Director, Central Ayurved and Siddha Research Council, Government of India
12. Shri B.P Gupta	(40) B.A.M.S., Chief Physician of Agrawal Charitable Ayurvedic Hospital, Kamla Nagar
13. Shri Suresh Chaturvedi	(60) BIMS, Ayurvedacharya, MAMS, Bombay
14. Shri Bamdeo Tripathi	(76) MAMS, Calcutta, President, Bihar State Ayurvedic Sammelan, Patna
15. Shri V.R. Mehta	(76) Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Ayurved University, Jamnagar
16. Shri Srikant Phansalkar	(32) BAMS (Bombay) Ayurvedic Co-ordinator Dabur India Ltd., Delhi
17. Shri Gagan Kwatra	(30) Export Officer, Dabur India Ltd., Delhi
18. Dr. D.S. Lucas	(49) D. Ay. M. from B.H.U. Prof. and Head of Department of post graduate studies in Government College of Indian Medicine Bangalore

19.	Dr. Jaya Prakash Narayan	(45) M.D. Ayurveda from Bangalore University Chairman Karnataka Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Board
20.	Dr. G. Rameshwaram	(34) Research Associate, Kakatiya University, Warangal
21.	Dr. (Ms.) Sumitra Sharma	(58) Ayurved Ratna, Ayurvedic Physician, Khandwa (M.P.)
22.	Dr. (Mrs.) Mridula Pande	(30) DBMS, New Delhi, Assistant Medical Officer-in-charge, Delhi Administration Dispensary
23.	Dr. (Miss) Renu Batra	(29) BAMS, in Charge Panchkarma and Female Department, Chandiwala Ayurvedic Hospital, Kalkaji
24.	Dr. (Ms) Prabha Sharma	(50) BAMS, Ph. D from B.H.U., Lecturer in Tibbia Ayurvedic College
25.	Shri H. Rangnath	(59) Export Executive, Zandu Pharmaceutical Works Ltd, Dabar, Bombay
26.	Shri Srikrishna Multani	(65) Ayurvedacharya, Senior Practising Ayurvedic Physician, Delhi
27.	Smt. Nirmal Multani	(60) Wife of Shri Srikrishna Multani
28.	Shri Husaini Ali Mansoor Ali	(35) Deputy General Manager (Research & Production Universal Medicaments Pvt. Ltd. Nagpur
29.	Vaid Satdeo	(60) Former Chief Physician NDMC, Ayurvedic Hospital
30.	Dr. Rajpal Singh	(35) Medical Officer, M.C.D., Ayurvedic Dispensary, Delhi

31.	Dr. Alok Sharma	(40) Medical Officer, M.C.D. Ayurvedic Dispensary
32.	Shri Sukumar Bhattacharjee	(65) MASF (Cal.) H.P.A., (Jam) Member Central Council of Indian Medicine, former Principal Government Ayurvedic College, Gauhati
33.	Dr. Sudhir Khetawat	(39) Chairman, Indian Institute of Holistic Madicines, Indore
34.	Vaid Amirchand Chawla	(55) Consultant Physician Sant Nirankari Mandal Delhi, President NIMA (National Integrated Medical Association)
35.	Vaid Chakrapani Sharma	(28) BAMS, Prop. Chakrapani Ayurved Bhawan, Delhi
36.	Smt. Kaushalaya Sharma	(30) Wife of Kaviraj Ved Vrat Sharma
37.	Shri Shiv Shankar Awasthy	(36) Prof. D.A.V. College, T.V. Film Producer
38.	Ms. Prabha Bhardwaj	(43) Poet, Writer
39.	Shri Kundar Bahadur Bachain	(48) Lecturer, Poet
40.	Smt. Rama Rani Singh	(45) Lecturer Poet
41.	Ms. Saroj Bala Kataria	(47) Principal, Lal Bahadur Sanik School, Ghaziabad
42.	Ms. Suparna Kamboj	(23) M.A., Studying B. Ed. Ghaziabad
43.	Shri B.D. Gupta	(62) Ayurvedic Physician, former Principal Ayurvedic College, Jamnagar
44.	Vaid K.K. Sharma	(40) Managing Director AIMIL Pharmacy Pvt. Ltd.
45.	Smt. Manjula Sharma	(35) Wife of Shri K.K. Sharma

46. Dr. S.M. Surana	(42) Managing Director, Easter Capsulations Pvt. Ltd. Delhi
47. Prof. Hakim Syed Khaleefathuliah	(45) GCIM, DM & S MNSA India, Hon. Physicion to the President of India, President Central Council of Indian Medicines, Madras
48. Dr. Dilip Arora	(24) BAMS, Tibbia Hospital, Delhi
49. Dr. Shivraj Chowdhary	(25) BAMS Tibbia Hospital, Delhi
50. Shri Ashutosh Mazumdar	(74) Former President, C.C.I.M., Delhi, Ayruvedic Physician
51. Shri Mahendra Maharashi	(48) Doordarshan
52. Shri Suresh K. Chaturvedi	(40) Poet, Katni
53. Shri Prakash Chandra Nema	(50) Poet, Katni
54. Shri Manohar Prasad Tiwari	(41) Poet, Katni
55. Shri Ram Prakash Swami	(65) Former Direcior, National Institute of Ayurved, Jaipur
56. Ms. Usha Gautam	(35) Ayurvedic Physician, MCD
57. Ms. Vinod Sharma	(40) Ayurvedic Physician, Delhi
58. Shri H.K. Patel	J.S. Ayurved Mahavidyalaya Nadi, Gujarat
59. Shri M.B. Patel	J.S, Ayurved Mahavidyalaya Nadi, Gujarat
60. Shri Jitender Rathore	(45) Publication Officer, Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan, Poet Patna
61. Shri P.R. Tiwari	(51) M.B.B.S., Ayurved Ratna, Tiwari Nursing Home, Indore
62. Shri Ram Chandra Maneria	(40) Director, Acu Pressure Centre, Indore

63. Kaviraj Dharam Vira	Ayurvedic Physician, General Secretary All India Ayurved Specialist (PG) Associations, Delhi
64. Shri Jaswant Singh B. Rathore	President, Medical Officers (Ayurved) Association, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
65. Dr. Bharat Panchal	Ayurvedic Physician, Delhi
66. Mr. Sazanova	Prof. Moscow State University, Expert of International Foundation Cultural Initiative
67. Ms. Snegireva	Programme Director, Cultural Initiative
68. Shri A. Akaynow	Executive Director, Cultural Initiative
69. Shri Nanak Chand Sharma (70)	Ayurvedic Physician, Senior Vice President All India Ayurved Vidyapeth
70. Shri Narendra Bhatt	Zandu Pharmaceutical Works. Bombay
71. Shri Brij Lal Bhardwaj (45)	Ayurvedic Physician in Railway Hospital, former Professor of Sanatan Dharam Ayurvedic College.
72. Mr. R.K. Issur	Central Ayurvedic Research Council Delhi
73. Ms. Simmi Dutta	Ayurvedic Physician Moolchand Kharati Lal Ayurvedic Hospital, Delhi
74. Ms. Pratibha Shah	Ayurvedic Physician Delhi
75. Shri Susheel K. Jain	Maxo Lal Pvt. Ltd., Delhi
76. Shri Prakash Thakar	Ayurvedic Medicines, Manufacturer, Bombay

77. Shri Nagina Kothari	Ayurvedic Medicines, Manufacturer, Bombay
78. Shri Ram Krishan Agrawal (32)	Magnato Therapist
79. Shri Suresh Chandra Sukia	Poet, Oslo, Norway
80. Ms. Usha Puri	Professor Hindi, Daulatram College, Delhi
81. Ms. Ahilya Mishra	Poet, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
82. Ms. Sandhya Pande	Sales Executive, Dextravels Pvt Ltd.
83. Shri Ved Prakash Sharma	Poet, Ghaziabad
84. Shri Rameshwar Dass Sharma	Sanskrit Scholar
85. Smt. Vidya Khanna	Wife of Shri J.P. Khanna, Mauritius
86. Shri Azad Kumar	Doctor, Tibbia Hospital
87. Mr. R.K. Jain	Registrar, Central Council of Indian Medicine, New Delhi
88. Mr. B.G. Parikh	Zandu Pharmaceutical works, Bombay
89. Mr. H.M. Parikh	Zandu Pharmaceutical Works, Bombay
90. Dr. Devendra Triguna	Delhi
91. Dr. Rajaram	Amsterdam, Holland
92. Mrs. Rajaram	Amsterdam, Holland